(vi) To carry out the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting on the Metre Gauge (MG).

Dedicated freight corridor

86. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many dedicated freight corridors have been planned and what is their construction schedule;

(b) whether the funding would be done from Railways' own resources or loans from international financial bodies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc. had to be resorted to; and

(c) whether the proven world-wide technology would be an important input keeping in view the long gestation period and emerging excellence and speed level rolling stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Government of India has approved the construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor Projects on Eastern Route (Ludhiana-Dankuni) and Western Route (Jawaharlal Nehru Port near Mumbai to Dadri/Tughlakabad). They are targeted for completion in about 5 years from the start of construction of the Project.

(b) The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is proposed to be financed through a mix of internal generation, market borrowings, budgetary and non-budgetary resources including multilateral and bilateral funding. For funding of Eastern and Western Corridors, Ministry of Railways is negotiating with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

(c) It is proposed to use the State of the art technology for implementation of the project.

Rail network in Orissa

†87. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Orissa in the country keeping in view the railway density *i.e.* rail line in kilometre in comparison to the population or area;

(b) whether there is any special scheme with Government to extend the rail lines and to make arrangements for more railway transport;

(c) whether the State Government has given any memorandum or make any special request to the Central Government in this regard; and

(d) the present status of pending railway projects in the State and by when all these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 31.03.2008, the railway route length (route kilometre) in Orissa is 6.49 kilometre per lakh of population. It is 15.33 kilometre per 1000 square kilometre of area in terms of density.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.